(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news- item captioned "What can Rs. 500 buy?—It's high time the anachronistic laws on maintenance went" which appeared in the Indian Express dated the 28th May, 2001;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to address the various problems and bottlenecks mentioned in the news-item regarding Government's policy towards divorced women in the country.

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) Yes, Sir. (b) to (c) The Government proposes to introduce a Bill in Parliament during the current Monsoon Session to make suitable amendments in Chapter IX of the Code of Criminal Procedure , 1973 to remove the ceiling for maintenance and to provide for a monthly allowance as interim maintenance during the pendency of the proceedings in Court.

It is also proposed in the Bill to provide for disposal of the application for the interim maintenance and expenses for proceedings, as far as possible, within sixty days from the date of service of notice on the person from whom maintenance is claimed.

Free medical service by certain hospitals in Delhi

*207. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently conducted any survey to detect whether hospitals/nursing homes which have been allotted land in Delhi by Government on concessional rates are actually providing free medical service to specified percentage of patients;

(b) if so, the details and the results of survey;

(c) whether survey has revealed that most hospitals/nursing homes, including some corporate hospitals, in Delhi are not providing free service to specified percentage of patients;

(d) if so, action taken against such defaulters;

(e) whether there is any permanent mechanism to detect such defaults; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and if not, reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C .P. THAKUR): (a) to (c) Government of NCT of Delhi have infomred that no such survey has been conducted. However, the Lt. Governor, Delhi constituted a High Level Committee on 12th June, 2000, under the Chairmanship of Justice (Retd.) A. S. Qureshi in view of the public interest involved in the matter, to review the existing free facilities and suggest suitable policy guidelines. The Committee has submitted its report on 22nd July, 2001. The Committee has observed that the existing free facilities extended by charitable and other hospitals who have been allotted land on concessional terms/rates are inadequate and erratic. Only a few such hospitals have given reasonably good services. The extent of services provided in these institutions are also non-uniform in the absence of any specific guidelines.

(d) The Government of NCT of Delhi has informed that no follow up action has been taken as yet.

(e) and (f) At present, there is no established mechanism available to detect the non-fulfilment of the obligations under the terms of allotment of land for providing free treatment to patients. The terms for allotment of land the related licence deeds have not incorporated in specific terms, the conditions defining the nature and extent of the free treatment to be given to the patients.

Educational complex for girls in Uttaranchal

†*208. SHRI MANOHAR KANT DHYANI: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have any scheme to establish educational complex in the tribal districts with a view to providing education to girls;

(b) whether any such schemes is proposed for Khatima Tehsil of Udham Singh Nagar district of Uttaranchal, which is inhabited mostly by Tharu and Boxa tribals;

(c) if so, by when work in this regard will be started; and

(d) if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JUAL ORAM): (a) Yes, Sir. A scheme of Educational Complex in Low Literacy Pockets to provide educational facilities to Scheduled Tribe girls in identified districts is under implementation.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.